

CONGRATULATING THE JACKSONVILLE PROVIDENCE STALLIONS ON CLASS A STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of a group of young men from my congressional district that attend Providence School in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, in just the sixth year of this school's existence, their baseball team has won the Class A state baseball championship. This is no small feat in the state of Florida, for ours is a state known for great baseball and baseball greats such as Fred McGriff, Alex Rodriguez, and Chipper Jones. This year the state of Florida had 50 men on Major League Baseball spring training rosters.

This group of fourteen young men and five coaches compiled a 26–2 record on the way to their state championship, and along the way won the American Plumbing Classic in Jacksonville, the district, and regional championships. For some on this team, these winning ways are nothing new as Providence was District champion and Regional runner-up in 2001 and made the State Final Four in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, while the crowning moment of this team's season came at the end of a 7–2 win over Orangewood Christian at Tampa's Legend's Field, it was more than just 28 games that went into this championship. For most of these young men, this championship started at age 5 or 6 and has continued through many spring and summer league games since. This championship came with the help and sacrifices of family, friends and multiple coaches, many of whom are volunteers. This victory came at the expense of free time, other school functions, and even some blood, sweat, and a few tears.

It takes a lot to be a champion and this team, their family, friends, and coaches have all shown they know what it takes.

I wish continued success to all fourteen of these young men who make up the Providence School's baseball team: Kellyn Townsend, Joshua Maxwell, Kyle Wilson, Austin Heilig, Travis Martin, Jordan Bowser, Tim Aldridge, Connor Hodges, Steven Turner, Hunter Robinson, Ryan Kramer, Blake Gerber, Tim Brown, and Robert Hardee. I also wish continued success to Head Coach Billy Bell and his four assistants: Mark Aldridge, Greg Larrick, Jim Martin, and Mac Mackiewicz.

THANKING MR. MICHAEL ELLIOTT FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on July 7th, we rise to thank Mr. Michael Elliott for his outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 16 years.

Over the years, Mike has provided outstanding customer support to Members, Com-

mittees, Leadership and Support Officers of the House. He began his career with the House on March 25, 1987 and served this great institution in numerous capacities, most notably with House Information Resources (HIR) under the office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

In 1987, he was hired as a User Support Specialist to provide technical support; specifically hardware troubleshooting and repairs for PCs, printers, monitors and system units in all House offices. In this position, Mike became a certified Apple Macintosh technician and served as Team Leader for all Macintosh support. He remained in that position until 1995. Since 1995 he has worked as a Technical Support Representative servicing Member offices. Mike is highly skilled and very proficient in providing office automation and technical services to House offices. His professionalism and work ethic is a true demonstration of excellence and dedication to providing passionate customer service. His technical skills and breadth of knowledge of House office operations enabled Mike to provide and advise others in providing effective resolutions.

I know all of you join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to this invaluable member of the House family. We wish the very best to Mike and his wife Susan as they pursue the next phase of life.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER AND JEFFERSON AWARD RECIPIENT LEANNA RICHARD ALFRED

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, many people serve the needs of their community, not searching for public recognition. Their reward is the knowledge that those in need have been helped. Mrs. Leanna Richard Alfred of Lafayette, Louisiana is one such individual.

Friends and colleagues have described her as a terrific role model with a warm smile and a loving personality—a motherly figure, always prepared to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Mrs. Alfred is being honored this week in Washington, DC with the distinguished Jefferson Award. Given by the American Institute for Public Service, this national award is granted to "ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or award."

Through a partnership with local media sponsor KLFY-TV in Lafayette, Louisiana, Mrs. Alfred's efforts were brought to the Institute's attention. This award is not the first for Mrs. Alfred, but it is a very special honor. In 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard founded the American Institute for Public Service to establish a Nobel Prize for public and community service.

Mrs. Alfred's work is directed toward children in our community. She sponsors several annual events—fashion shows, a Christmas Ball, and basketball tournaments—to offer African-American children in the area avenues to showcase their unique talents. Her events often provide scholarships for area youngsters to advance their education, as well as trophies

and certificates of achievement. Her motto is "Making a Difference," and that is just what she does on a daily basis.

I congratulate Mrs. Leanna Richard Alfred for her dedication to making our community an area in which young people can strive, succeed, and know that they are cherished.

CONGRATULATING EMMETT LEDBETTER FOR EARNING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an American patriot, Emmett Ledbetter of Jackson, Tennessee. Mr. Ledbetter recently received the Distinguished Flying Cross Award for his bravery and heroism while serving our nation as a top turret gunner and flight engineer during World War II.

As a member of the 455th Bomb Group and the 743rd Bomb Squadron, Mr. Ledbetter flew the greater part of his 50 combat missions in the months leading up to the historic D-Day landing on the beaches of Normandy. Based out of an airfield near Cerignola, Italy, the 455th Bomb Group completed missions throughout Romania and Austria against the German occupiers.

No stranger to military decorations, Mr. Ledbetter received the Presidential Unit Citation twice for missions in Austria as well as the EAME Theater Ribbon and the Air Medal honoring his military prowess throughout the War.

On one such occasion, for which he has now earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, a bomb was found to be caught in the rear of the airplane on a return trip from a mission in Vienna. Facing a serious threat to the safety of the airplane, Mr. Ledbetter and another crewmember, in a moment of bravery, put on oxygen masks and entered the bomb bay, walking across a narrow catwalk at an altitude of 20,000 feet. Once inside, they forced the explosive off the rack, saving the airplane and its crew.

Following this mission, Mr. Ledbetter was recommended to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross, but because of clerical procedures, his award was delayed. Now, almost 60 years after this heroic accomplishment, Mr. Ledbetter has received the recognition he deserves, having finally been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on February 13, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, at this difficult time in our nation's history, I know you and our colleagues join me in thinking about and praying for our troops. I hope you will also join me in honoring a man who fought for this country in a different war to guarantee the safeties and freedoms we all cherish so much. We salute Emmett Ledbetter for his honorable career serving our nation and congratulate him on the long-deserved Distinguished Flying Cross Award.